GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:747
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2007
NETWORK EXPANSION FOR SALE OF STEEL
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to expand the network for sale of steel in rural areas as reported in Times of India dated January 15, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expected benefits to the rural population therefor ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS)

(a)to(c): Yes, Sir. With a view to widen the distribution network and to increase the availability of steel in the country, the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) are expanding their dealers' network across various districts in the country.

As on 1.1.2007 SAIL has offered dealership to 651 dealers covering 529 districts (inclusive of Letter of Intents pending in 70 districts). Appointment of remaining dealers is in progress. While providing the dealership, preference is given to qualified SC/ST/OBC personnel.

As on 1.1.2007 RINL has offered district level dealership to 99 dealers. While granting district level dealership preference is being given to SC, ST and OBC personnel. Out of the total dealers appointed so far 35 belong to SC, ST and OBC categories.

The rural population is expected to benefit in terms of enhanced availability of commonly used steel items in their vicinity.